However, Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) have been in operation since 1979-80 for supplementing/complementing the Central and the State budget for development of SCs and STs. In terms of this arrangement, population is the major criterion to assist the quantum of funds under various development sectors both at the Central and the State leves. 13 Central Ministries and 24 States/UTs are successfully implementing these two strategies.

Special Central Assistance (SCA) is being provided by Central Government as an additionality to SCP and STP budgets in the State Sector. Population is the major criterion for allocation of funds for this purpose.

Besides, in order to encourage substantial allocation of resources, Central Assistance is also being provided under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for improving the infrastructural facilities in the Tribal areas.

The Plan Allocation for various schemes/programmes which are intended to benefit the SCs/STs/OBCs and Minorities during 2000-01 are as follows :

Schemes/Programmes	Plan Allocation 2000-01
SC Development	864.50
Tribal Development	810.00
OBCs	103.03
Minorities	32.65

Grant-in-Aid for Mentally Handicapped

4509. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have passed a bill on National Trust for the Mentally Handicapped;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government give only Rs. 350/- per month as grant-in-aid to NGOs to run the residential facilities for each of the mentally handicapped which is grossly inadequate; and

(c) whether Government are planning to enhance this amount to a reasonable level so that the NGOs can offer better services to these handicapped who cannot help themselves ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No Sir. Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities assistance is given to the extent of 90% of the project cost to non-Governmental organizations for different types of projects taken up for the Welfare of disabled. Total amount of assistance given depends upon the project for which assistance is sought and the amount of assistance for various components within the project and the amount recommended by the Inspecting authorities of the State Government as well as the ceiling norms prescribed for the components. There is no proposal to enhance the amount of ceiling norms for various components for the present.

Appointment of Member to the Dave Committee

4510. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently appointed Dave Committee to go into the question of PF and Pension Scheme;

(b) whether a former Central Provident Fund Commissioner was appointed as a member of the Committee;

(c) whether the Ministry of Labour was consulted before nominating him on the Committee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The participation of the former Central Provident Fund Commissioner as a Member of the Committee was in his capacity as an expert on the subject and not as a Government representative.